

Message Text

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SUBJ: 19TH UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL--REVISED BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR
ADMINISTRATION AND PROGRAM SUPPORT SERVICES FOR 1975
(ITEM 16(H))

SUMMARY: BUDGETARY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE JANUARY 21
ENDORSED REVISED SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES REQUESTED BY
ADMINISTRATOR (\$4,676,700) WITH EXCEPTION OF \$500,000
SOUGHT FOR SHORT-TERM CONSULTANTS. ADMINISTRATOR
AUTHORIZED ON TRIAL BASIS TO MAKE USE OF SHORT-TERM
EXPERTS AS PROPOSED BUT WITHIN EXISTING FUNDS AND REPORT
TO JUNE SESSION ON EXPERIENCE.

1. BUDGETARY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE CONCLUDED DISCUSSION
ITEM 16(H), REVISED BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR 1975; JANUARY
21. DURING OPENING DEBATE ADMINISTRATION SCALED REQUEST
DOWNWARD BY \$266,700 (TO 4,676,700) TO REFLECT FAILURE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO AGREE TO CONSOLIDATE 2 CLASSES
POST ADJUSTMENT AND OTHER CHANGES. APPROXIMATELY ONE-HALF
OF REQUESTED INCREASE DIRECTLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO PAY
INCREASE APPROVED BY 29TH UNGA (\$2,419,000). OTHER
MAJOR ITEMS INCLUDED OPENING OF NEW FIELD OFFICES OR
SUB-OFFICES IN GUINEA-BISSAU, MOZAMBIQUE, ANGOLA,
ABU DHABI AND OMAN (\$854,300), ESTABLISHMENT FOUR
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ADDITIONAL SENIOR AGRICULTURAL ADVISORS POSTS UNDER

JOINT UNDP-FAO PROGRAM (\$202,700) AND REQUEST FOR \$500,000 TO ALLOW FOR RECRUITMENT OF SHORT-TERM CONSULTANTS BY RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVES FOR SPECIFIC TECHNICAL EXPERTISE AND ADVICE WHEN ESSENTIAL IN URGENT, HIGH PRIORITY SITUATIONS.

2. DEBATE CENTERED ON APPROPRIATENESS OF ADMINISTRATOR'S REQUEST AT THIS TIME IN VIEW UNDP FINANCIAL RULE 111.8 (WHICH STATES "SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES...MAY BE SUBMITTED BY ADMINISTRATOR TO GOVERNING COUNCIL AT ITS JUNE SESSION."), AND THE REQUEST FOR SHORT-TERM CONSULTANT FUNDS. FRG AND FRANCE LED ATTACK AGAINST DEVIATION FROM FINANCIAL RULES WHICH SHOULD ONLY BE DONE ON EMERGENCY BASIS. CALLED FOR STRICT INTERPRETATION REGULATION 111.8. OTHER DELS (INCLUDING US.) COUNTERED THAT SOME OF ITEMS PRESENTED WERE OF SUCH FINANCIAL OR PROGRAMMATIC SIGNIFICANCE THAT ACTION NOW WAS APPROPRIATE, THAT FINANCIAL RULES SHOULD BE TOOLS, NOT IMPEDIMENTS AND/OR THAT FRENCH INTERPRETATION TOO STRICT. IN REPLY FINANCE DIRECTOR SADDLER DISTINGUISHED BETWEEN SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES WHICH ARE GENERALLY REQUESTED DURING OR AFTER A PARTICULAR FINANCIAL YEAR AND COVERED BY FINANCIAL RULE 111.8 AND REVISED ESTIMATES WHICH INVOLVE MODIFYING BUDGET BEFORE FINANCIAL PERIOD COMMENCES BASED ON KNOWN CHANGED SITUATION (THE CASE AT HAND).

3. MANY DELEGATIONS EXPRESSED CONCERN AT SHORT-TERM CONSULTANTS PROPOSAL DUE TO LACK OF SPECIFICITY IN DP/96 AND PARTICULARLY IN VIEW ADVERSE CRITICISM ON USE OF CONSULTANTS RAISED IN GA FIFTH COMMITTEE AS WELL AS ACABQ COMMENTS. ADMINISTRATOR PETERSON PERSONALLY ENTERED DEBATE TO SHORE-UP ADMINISTRATION POSITION AFTER STATEMENT BY WHO REPRESENTATIVE WHO EXPRESSED CONCERN AT POSSIBLE REOPENING OF DEBATE ON SECTORAL SUPPORT FOR RESREPS. HE THOUGHT WHO COULD MEET MOST UNDP REQUIREMENTS FOR HEALTH EXPERTS AND SOUGHT FURTHER DIALOGUE WITH UNDP ON QUESTION OF WHERE WHO MIGHT BE FALLING SHORT. ADMINISTRATOR SAID INITIATIVE HAD DEVELOPED FROM GRASS-ROOTS REQUESTS BY RESREPS FOR ON-SPOT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN UNDOING BOTTLENECKS

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AND WAS AIMED AT IMPROVED IMPLEMENTATION WITHIN DECENTRALIZATION FRAMEWORK. EXPERIMENTAL NATURE OF APPROACH AND FACT IT GEARED TO ASSIST AGENCIES WITH IMPLEMENTATION WAS STRESSED. PETERSON ADMITTED ADMINISTRATION MAY HAVE "OVERDONE" THING IN PROPOSING SPECIAL FUNDING AND MODIFIED REQUIREMENT TO \$200-300,000 EVEN ON A TRIAL BASIS, TO BE CHARGED TO PROGRAM RESERVE. NETHERLANDS REP THOUGHT IMPROVEMENT IN IMPLEMENTATION

SHOULD BEGIN WITH MOBILIZATION OF SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THEIR EXPERTISE AND FEARED ADOPTING PROPOSED CONSULTANTSHIP ROUTE MIGHT BE EASY WAY OUT. NEVERTHELESS SUPPORTED PROPOSAL.

4. SWEDES CAME FORWARD WITH COMPROMISE TO BRIDGE POSITIONS ON THOSE WHO SOUGHT POSTPONEMENT OF ISSUE UNTIL JUNE SESSION TO PERMIT MORE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION BASED ON MORE DETAILED PROPOSAL AS WELL AS AGENCY COMMENTS AND THOSE WHO AGREED WITH ADMINISTRATOR THAT RESREPS SHOULD HAVE THIS NEW IMPLEMENTATION TOOL NOW. RECOMMENDED GOING FORWARD WITH SHORT TERM CONSULTANTSHIP PROGRAM ON PROVISIONAL BASIS, CHARGING PROGRAM RESERVE, WITH ADMINISTRATOR COMING BACK IN JUNE (20TH SESSION) WITH MORE COMPLETE PROPOSAL AND EXAMPLES OF HOW AUTHORITY USED.

5. UPSHOT OF DISCUSSION WAS RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL OF DP/96 WITHOUT FUNDS EARMARKED FOR SHORT-TERM CONSULTANTS. ADMINISTRATOR AUTHORIZED TO IMPLEMENT CONSULTANT PROGRAM ON THE BASIS OF FUNDS OTHERWISE AVAILABLE IN BUDGET WITH REPORT TO BE MADE IN JUNE SESSION WHICH WILL EXAMINE QUESTION IN DEPTH. REQUEST FOR FOUR ADDITIONAL SENIOR AGRICULTURAL ADVISORS (TO TOTAL OF 62 AT END 1975) FOR USE IN SUDANO-SAHELIAN AREA ENDORSED. ADMINISTRATION WAS CAUTIONED TO INSURE FINANCIAL RULE 111.8 FULLY RESPECT IN FUTURE.
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